

City of Buffalo
Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Members in Attendance: Douglas Coppola, Cavette Chambers, James Magavern, Tianna Marks, Meghan Brown

Quorum

New Business:

- 1) Councilmember Scanlon submitted an Ordinance Amendment for the BOE (Section 12:15, subcategories A-C) to Common Council on 3/6/18. It went to Legislative Committee on 3/13/18; it was approved by Common Council on 4/3/19. Jim Magavern to draft a letter to Corporate Counsel expressing BOE concerns regarding exclusion of BOE membership to almost any type of lawyer.
- 2) New BOE member: Meghan Brown (on 8/07/19); her term expires 10/31/19 reflecting Richard Sullivan's unexpired term). Reappointment on 10/29/19 at Common Council. Update
- 3) BOE member, Eleanor Paterson retired from her employment earlier this year & moved from the area. Letter sent to Eleanor asking for BOE resignation notice.

Judge Hannah contacted by Doug Coppola for another name to fill 2nd vacancy On BOE.

- 4) Email from Paul Wolf, President of Buffalo Niagara Coalition for Open Government, received 6/2/19 asking for BOE's public information. Clerk's office to update website to share more public information, example: BOE names & link for inquiries to go to Sharon; she will then contact BOE members.
- 5) Cavette Chambers to research terminology for any inconsistencies in the Annual Financial Disclosure(s) given to City employees &/or City board members.

Old Business:

- 1) At the July 18, 2017 meeting of the Committee of Legislature, Council Members requested an opinion/recommendation from the BOE concerning a Preservation Board member against James Comerford, Jr., Commissioner of Permits & Inspections for the City of Buffalo.

There was a decision of 980 Ellicott Street by the NYS Supreme Court into possible ethical violations by a Preservation Board member. BOE opinion was to be mailed to Preservation Board member early November 2017. Early January, a letter was received from Preservation Board member regarding the Financial Disclosure statements. Jim Magavern requested the BOE to review the current Financial Disclosure forms for unpaid Non-City Board Members for accuracy.

Approval of the September 10, 2019 minutes. Received and filed.

Next meeting scheduled for 11/19/19 @ 9 am, 1417 City Hall